



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 1040

LCO No. 3807

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) The State Board of Education may establish and maintain a state-
4 wide system of regional vocational-technical schools offering full-time,
5 part-time and evening programs in vocational, technical and
6 technological education and training. The board may make regulations
7 controlling the admission of students to any such school. The
8 Commissioner of Education, in accordance with policies established by
9 the board, may appoint and remove members of the staffs of such
10 schools and make rules for the management of and expend the funds
11 provided for the support of such schools. The board may enter into
12 cooperative arrangements with local and regional boards of education,
13 private occupational schools, institutions of higher education, job
14 training agencies and employers in order to provide general education,
15 vocational, technical or technological education or work experience.

16 (b) If the New England Association of Schools and Colleges places a

17 regional vocational-technical school on probation or otherwise notifies
18 the superintendent of the vocational-technical school system that a
19 regional vocational-technical school is at risk of losing its accreditation,
20 the Commissioner of Education shall notify the joint standing
21 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
22 relating to education of such placement or problems relating to
23 accreditation.

24 (c) The State Board of Education shall establish specific achievement
25 goals for students at the vocational-technical schools at each grade
26 level. The board shall measure the performance of each vocational-
27 technical school and shall identify a set of quantifiable measures to be
28 used. The measures shall include factors such as performance on the
29 state-wide tenth grade mastery examination under section 10-14n,
30 trade-related assessment tests, dropout rates and graduation rates.

31 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 67, the State Board of
32 Education shall be responsible for all personnel decisions relating to
33 the hiring of certified teachers in the regional vocational-technical
34 school system.

35 Sec. 2. Section 10-99g of the general statutes is repealed and the
36 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

37 (a) (1) Each regional vocational-technical school shall prepare a
38 proposed operating budget for the next succeeding school year
39 beginning July first and submit such proposed operating budget to the
40 superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school system. The
41 superintendent shall collect, review and use the proposed operating
42 budgets for each regional vocational-technical school to prepare a
43 proposed operating budget for the regional vocational-technical school
44 system.

45 (2) The superintendent of the regional vocational-technical school
46 system shall submit a proposed operating budget for the regional
47 vocational-technical school system to the regional vocational-technical

48 school subcommittee of the State Board of Education. The
49 subcommittee shall review such proposed operating budget and
50 approve or disapprove such proposed operating budget. If the
51 subcommittee disapproves such proposed operating budget, the
52 subcommittee shall adopt an interim budget and such interim budget
53 shall take effect at the commencement of the fiscal year and shall
54 remain in effect until the superintendent submits and the
55 subcommittee approves a modified operating budget. The
56 superintendent shall submit a copy of the approved operating budget
57 to the Office of Policy and Management.

58 [(a)] (b) The superintendent of the regional vocational-technical
59 school system shall biannually submit the operating budget and
60 expenses for each individual regional vocational-technical school, in
61 accordance with section 11-4a, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy
62 and Management, the director of the legislative Office of Fiscal
63 Analysis and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
64 having cognizance of matters relating to education.

65 [(b)] (c) The superintendent of the regional vocational-technical
66 school system shall make available and update on the regional
67 vocational-technical school system web site and the web site of each
68 regional vocational-technical school the operating budget for the
69 current school year of each individual regional vocational-technical
70 school.

71 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-95e of the general statutes is
72 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
73 *1, 2011*):

74 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a Vocational
75 Education Extension Fund. Within said Vocational Education
76 Extension Fund, there is established an account to be known as the
77 "vocational education extension account". The Vocational Education
78 Extension Fund may include other accounts separate and apart from
79 the vocational education extension account. The vocational education

80 extension account shall be used for the operation of preparatory and
 81 supplemental programs, including apprenticeship programs in
 82 accordance with subsection (b) of this section, and for the purchase of
 83 such materials and equipment required for use in the operation of said
 84 programs. All proceeds derived from the operation of said programs
 85 and revenue collected for rental or use of school facilities shall be
 86 credited to and become a part of the resources of said vocational
 87 education extension account, except as provided in subsection (b) of
 88 this section. All direct expenses incurred in the conduct of said
 89 programs shall be charged, and any payments of interest and principal
 90 of bonds or any sums transferable to any fund for the payment of
 91 interest and principal of bonds and any cost of equipment for such
 92 operations may be charged, against said vocational education
 93 extension account on order of the State Comptroller. Any balance of
 94 receipts above expenditures shall remain in said vocational education
 95 extension account to be used for said program and for the acquisition,
 96 as provided by section 4b-21, alteration and repairs of real property for
 97 educational facilities for such programs, except such sums as may be
 98 required to be transferred from time to time to any fund for the
 99 redemption of bonds and payment of interest on bonds, provided
 100 capital projects costing over one hundred thousand dollars shall
 101 require the approval of the General Assembly or, when the General
 102 Assembly is not in session, of the Finance Advisory Committee. The
 103 State Board of Education shall fix the tuition fees to be charged
 104 students for preparatory and supplemental programs including
 105 apprenticeship programs. [, provided the] The tuition fee fixed by the
 106 board to be charged for any single apprenticeship program or course
 107 shall not exceed [one] two hundred seventy-five dollars. Not less than
 108 half of the tuition fee charged for any apprenticeship program shall be
 109 paid by the employer.

110 Sec. 4. Section 84 of public act 09-3 of the June special session is
 111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
 112 *passage*):

113 Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 10-266m and 10-97 of
114 the general statutes, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, [and] to
115 June 30, [2011] 2012, inclusive, the Commissioner of Education may
116 provide grants, within available appropriations, in an amount not to
117 exceed two thousand five hundred dollars per pupil, to local and
118 regional boards of education that transport students who previously
119 attended, or who have been accepted for enrollment at, J.M. Wright
120 Technical School in Stamford to Henry Abbott Technical High School
121 in Danbury, for the costs associated with such transportation. Such
122 grants shall not exceed the actual costs of transportation for each pupil.
123 Applications shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education at
124 such time and on such forms as the commissioner prescribes.

125 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-95o of the general statutes is
126 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
127 *passage*):

128 (a) (1) The State Board of Education shall not close or suspend
129 operations of any regional vocational-technical school for more than
130 six months unless, prior to such closure or suspension of operations,
131 the board (A) holds a public hearing at the school that may be closed
132 or whose operations may be suspended, (B) develops and makes
133 available a comprehensive plan for such school in accordance with the
134 provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and (C) affirmatively votes
135 to close or suspend operations at a meeting duly called. Such public
136 hearing shall be held after normal school hours and [at least] not less
137 than thirty days prior to any vote of the board pursuant to
138 subparagraph (C) of this subdivision.

139 (2) The board shall not extend the closure or suspension of
140 operations of a regional vocational-technical school beyond the period
141 set forth in the comprehensive plan described in subsection (b) of this
142 section unless the board (A) holds another public hearing at a location
143 in the town in which the school is located, after normal school hours
144 and [at least] not less than thirty days prior to any vote of the board

145 pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, (B) develops and
146 makes available a new comprehensive plan for such school in
147 accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, and (C)
148 affirmatively votes to extend such closure or suspension of school
149 operations at a meeting duly called.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-95
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-99g
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10-95e(a)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	PA 09-3 of the June Sp. Sess., Sec. 84
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	10-95o(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To require the State Board of Education to be responsible for hiring teachers in the regional vocational-technical school system; to amend the budget adoption process for the regional vocational-technical school system; to raise the tuition fee for the apprenticeship program from one hundred dollars to two hundred seventy-five dollars; to extend the time period in which the Commissioner of Education can provide grants to school districts for the cost of transporting students formerly enrolled at J.M. Wright Technical School in Stamford to Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury; and to make technical revisions.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]